

## HOUCK'S TO GIVE TWO PHONOGRAPHS TO INSTITUTIONS

New Showrooms of South's Famous Music Store To Be Formally Opened December 22--Visitors to Cast Ballots

In celebration of the opening, on Dec. 22 of the O. K. Hough Piano company's new showrooms, which are said to be among the best in the country, there will be awarded to two charitable institutions receiving the most votes from visitors, two selected model Victrolas as Christmas gifts.

On the opening day, the newly remodeled display rooms of the Hough company will be formally thrown open to the public, and visitors will be given the privilege of casting ballots for Porter home and Leath orphans asylum, St. Peter's orphanage, the Old Men's home or the Old Women's home.

The ballots will be counted on the following morning, and to the two institutions receiving the most votes will be awarded the prize machines along with a selection of 12 double-faced records.

Workmen are busily engaged in putting on the final touches in preparation to throwing open to music lovers of Memphis one of the best equipped music stores in the United States.

A new entrance, consisting of two indirectly lighted, plate glass and steel show windows, with a central door, replaces the old single window and side entrance, while the removal of the former overhanging balcony, and the installation of a beautiful art glass upper front, add depth and dignity to an already inviting doorway.

Immediately inside the door is a small, but costly furnished main lobby, finished in the Adams style of architecture, with old ivory French paneling and tapestry walls. To the left rises a mahogany and old ivory stairway, leading to a balcony, whose railing conforms in style and color to the finish of the main lobby.

**Sound-Proof Booths.**

Eighteen specially designed, sound-proof phonograph record demonstration booths have been distributed along an aisle on the balcony, and on either side of a central aisle leading from the lower main lobby to the rear of the store.

These are the last word in booth design, being not only artistically designed, but mechanically constructed with double glass walls and intervening air spaces, so as to effect an insulation against sound vibration, which is further enhanced by the laying on the floors of richly woven rugs.

The 18 booths replace the six old ones which were formerly used by the Hough company for demonstrating purposes, and will be thrown open to the purchasers of records for private hearings of their selections, a well-arranged system of filing

shelves for holding records, completes the equipment of the first floor.

A conservatory-like showroom for pianos and piano players has been installed upon the third floor. Rich rugs and beautiful tapestries lend a drawing room air to the room, in which small concerts and music lectures may be held from time to time. A large and very complete storeroom for-roll records for player pianos and another for sheet music and musical instruments, complete the third floor.

The second floor is given over to pianos and victrolas. Here, as on the third floor, the drawing room idea has been carried out. Here the first period style victrolas in Memphis has been installed, and a well-chosen selection of present-day artists' records have been placed at the disposal of the music-loving public.

The Adams style of interior finish has been used throughout the entire store, in which candleabra light fixtures lend an air of hominess that is not to be found in but few similar establishments anywhere in the country.

## WINTER ADDS TO BRITISH PROBLEM OF UNEMPLOYMENT

Three to Four Millions Suffering From Lack of Jobs, Say Labor Leaders--Clerks Also Affected.

LONDON, Dec. 15.—Unemployment in Great Britain, steadily growing, has created a serious problem, which during the last few days has become more urgent owing to the advent of severe weather.

There is a general anxiety over the situation, as nearly every trade in the country is affected. Unemployment is common among clerks and middle-class occupations as well as among manual laborers, and official statistics show that about 500,000 are without occupation at present. It is admitted, however, that this is far below the real figure, as there are many without work who have not been reached by state or other organizations.

Labor circles declare the actual number of men out of employment is fully 1,000,000. A majority of these have dependants, and the number of persons suffering from the present conditions is placed at from 3,000,000 to 4,000,000, a large proportion being former soldiers.

The tendency of trades unions and local authorities is to rely upon the government to solve the problem, but in several places, municipalities and other organizations have begun improvement work, the cost of which will be paid out of local taxes. The national executive of the labor party yesterday passed a resolution declaring the "present scandal of innocent serving persons can not be allowed to continue" and calling upon the government to maintain persons for whom no work is available.

## SHIP WINS FIGHT WITH LAKE GALE; PASSENGERS SAFE

(By International News Service.)

CHICAGO, Ill., Dec. 15.—The lake steamer Alabama, with 240 persons, having been driven across Lake Michigan by a gale that prevented the ship reaching Muskegon, Mich., the port to which she was bound. Reports that the Alabama was safe in Milwaukee reached here just as life-saving crews were preparing to put out in search of her. Fears for the safety of the boat had been engendered ever since she failed to arrive at Muskegon on schedule time yesterday.

Fourteen of the fleet of 30 steamships that put out from Chicago ports last Sunday with cargoes aggregating 5,000,000 bushels of wheat have not reached any lake port, according to word received here. More than half of the vessels have been forced to put into ports of safety and apprehension is beginning to be felt in lake shipping circles over the fact that no word has come from any of the vessels.

Weather indications this morning were that the storm which has menaced lake shipping for the past two days, was abating.

Is your Christmas (Christ's Mass) a holy day—or merely a turkey-crabberry—puce—mince-ple-mistletoe-and-holly-day?

## Federal Injunction Granted Utilities In City Tax Case

Federal injunctions were issued Wednesday by Judge Andrew M. J. Cochran to the Arkansas & Memphis Railway and Bridge company, and to the Memphis Union Station company, to be served against City Treasurer John H. Hesse, in the determined fight of the big utilities to escape payment of city taxes on a 100 per cent basis of the assessment returned against them by the state railroad and public utilities commission.

The injunctions were similar in purpose to those recently granted to the Memphis Street Railway company, the Rock Island (Memphis Terminal company), and the Choctaw, Oklahoma & Gulf Railroad company. They temporarily enjoin Hesse from collecting taxes on the utilities named, other than 65.91 per cent of their assessed valuations.

In each case, the Fourteenth amendment to the constitution of the United States was invoked by the utilities, and claim was made that section 1 of the amendment was violated.

Discussion of the assessment against the bridge spanning the Mississippi river, is brought up in the first of the two injunctions granted, the company claiming that but 24 per cent of the said property is in Tennessee, whereas the commission returned an assessment against half the bridge as Tennessee's share of the property in question.

Meanwhile, a partial payment of the taxes has been made, and assurance has been given by City Attorney W. P. Armstrong that he will seek an early hearing of the tax cases arising over the disputed assessments.

## No "Goodfellow" For These Boys

WEST ORANGE, N. J., Dec. 15.—Christmas this year is to be a joyless festival for three West Orange boys of 10 to 12 years who today were sentenced by City Recorder John B. Lander to receive no holiday presents, take no part in any Christmas festivities and go to bed at 6:30 every evening for a month, including Christmas eve.

The youngsters, who appeared in court accompanied by their parents, were convicted of breaking into a school and stealing pencils and money from the teachers' desks and on another occasion tinkering with the automobile of Rev. Alfred Roy Gamon so that the minister could not start it when he was to go home after a church service.

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